

REMARKS
STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 98, 103 – 109, 112, 117 – 123, 126, 131 – 137 and 139 - 141 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 96-97, 102, 110 -111, 116, 124 – 125, 130 and 138 have been amended.

Claims 96-97, 99-102, 110-111, 113-116, 124-125, 127-130 and 138 are currently pending in the application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 107, 109, 121, 123, 135, and 137 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating this allowable subject matter.

Claim 109 depended from Claim 106, which depended from Claim 96. Applicants have amended Claim 96, incorporating therein limitation from Claims 106 and 109. As such, Claim 96 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 123 depended from Claim 120, which depended from Claim 110. Applicants have amended Claim 110, incorporating therein limitation from Claims 120 and 123. As such, Claim 110 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 137 depended from Claim 134, which depended from Claim 124. Applicants have amended Claim 124, incorporating therein limitation from Claims 134 and 137. As such, Claim 124 is believed to be allowable.

RESPONSE TO THE REJECTIONS

Claims 96, 110, 124, 138, 98-99, 112-113, and 126 – 127

Claims 96, 110, 124, 138, 98-99, 112-113, and 126 – 127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. US Patent 6,854,018 (“Li”). Claims 98, 112, and 126 have been canceled, rendering the rejection to these claims moot. The rejection to Claims 96, 110, 124, 138, 99, 113, and 127 is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent Claims 96, 110, and 124 have been amended, as discussed under the heading “Allowable Subject Matter.” Therefore, Independent Claims 96, 110, and 124 are believed to be allowable.

Independent Claim 138 has been amended herein. Claim 138 is drafted in method format. As amended, Independent Claim 138 is of similar scope as Independent Claim 124, which is drafted in apparatus format (computer readable medium). Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment to Claim 138 will not require any further search or consideration by the Examiner, as the scope is similar to Claim 124, which is believed to be allowable for reasons already under the heading “Allowable Subject Matter”.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entrance of the amendment to Independent Claim 138 and allowance of amended Claim 138.

Dependent Claims 99, 113, and 127 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable Independent claim.

Claims 100, 114 and 128

Claims 100, 114 and 128 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Li. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claims 100, 114 and 128 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable Independent claim.

Claims 101-102, 115-116, 129-130

Claims 101-102, 115-116, 129-130 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Li in view of Renshaw, US Patent No 6,065,024. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claims 101-102, 115-116, 129-130 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable Independent claim.

Claims 97, 111, and 125

Claims 97, 111, and 125 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Li in view of Ganger et al, "Embedded Inodes and Explicit Grouping". The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claims 97, 111, and 125 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable Independent claim.

Claims 103-105, 117-119, 131-133, 139-141

Claims 103-105, 117-119, 131-133, 139-141 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Li in view of Jaeger US Patent No 6,345,028. Claims 103-105, 117-119, 131-133, 139-141 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Final Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Ronald M Pomerence
Reg. No. 43,009

Date: December 28, 2006

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1089
Telephone: (408) 414-1207
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on 12/28/06 by Annette Valdivia
Annette Valdivia